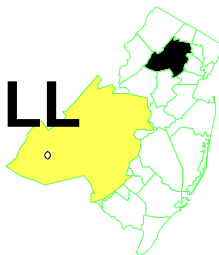


# COMBE FILL SOUTH LANDFILL NEW JERSEY

EPA ID# NJD094966611



**EPA REGION 2**  
**CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 11**  
Morris County  
Chester and Washington Townships

## Site Description

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The Combe Fill South Landfill consisted of three separate fill areas comprising 65 acres on a 115-acre parcel of land between Chester and Washington Townships. The site operated as a municipal landfill from the 1940s until 1981 and was licensed to accept domestic and non-hazardous industrial wastes, sewage sludge, septic tank wastes, chemicals, and waste oils. In 1978, Combe Fill Corporation (CFC) bought the landfill. While under CFC management, procedures at the landfill violated many of the New Jersey solid waste administrative codes. CFC went bankrupt in 1981, before the landfill was properly closed. A citizens' group, one of two formed by residents who were concerned over disposal practices at the site, sampled the groundwater, leachate, and surface water and found them to be contaminated. Testing indicated that the fill material consists mainly of highly decomposed rubbish, and that no hot spots or localized sources of hazardous substances could be located. Contaminants have seeped into the aquifer beneath the site. The area surrounding the site is semi-rural. Nearby Trout Brook is used for fishing and recreational activities. Approximately 170 people live within ½ mile of the landfill. Most of the residents use private wells as their source of drinking water. Vegetable and grain crops, orchards, and horse farms are located near the site. In 1986, EPA and the State selected a containment remedy for the site. The remedial action has been completed and the site is now undergoing operation and maintenance.

**Site Responsibility:** This site is being addressed through a combination of Federal and State actions.

### NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 12/01/82

Final Date: 09/01/83

## Threats and Contaminants

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Air sampling on the site showed the presence of methane and other gases and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Groundwater beneath the site is contaminated with VOCs. Prior to the remedial action, contaminated surface runoff drained into Trout Brook.

## Cleanup Approach

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The site is being addressed in two stages: an immediate action and a long-term remedial phase focusing on remediation of the entire site.

### Response Action Status

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**Immediate Action:** The State provided in-home water treatment systems to residents potentially affected by groundwater contamination.



**Entire Site:** In 1986, EPA and the State selected a remedy that included: (1) providing an alternate water supply system for affected residents (2) covering the landfill with clay or a synthetic material to prevent surface water and rainwater from coming into contact with the buried wastes; (3) installing a system to collect the landfill gases; (4) pumping the shallow groundwater and leachate and treating it prior to discharge into Trout Brook; (5) installing controls to accommodate stormwater runoff and seasonal increases in precipitation; and (6) performing an additional study to determine if the deep aquifer needs treatment. The design for the landfill was completed in June 1992. Construction activities have been completed and the site is now undergoing operation and maintenance. Recent sampling of potable wells indicate that the water quality has significantly improved and that contaminants have not migrated as originally anticipated. As a result, EPA and the State are delaying the installation of the waterline pending the results of additional potable well monitoring which will determine the need for the waterline. A study was begun in 2001 to determine if the deep aquifer requires remediation. Currently, EPA and the State are involved in litigation with the potentially responsible parties to recover past costs incurred at the site. EPA is currently considering a PRP request to be allowed to conduct the RI/FS for the second operable unit.

## Cleanup Progress



**(Actual Construction Completed)**

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The Combe Fill South construction work was substantially completed on September 20, 1997. The groundwater extraction and treatment system has been fully functional since June 1997 and the project is currently in the operation and maintenance phase.

The most recent sampling of potable wells indicated that the levels of contaminants in the

groundwater are decreasing and, as a result, the installation of the alternate waterline may not be necessary.

Currently, EPA and the State are involved in litigation with the potentially responsible parties to recover past costs incurred at the site.